

Quarterly Hogs and Pigs

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Hog inventories

First Quarter 2003

The number of hogs on Canadian farms has declined for the second consecutive quarter. As of April 1, 2003 the inventory of hogs on farms stood at 14.6 million head, down 0.7% from the beginning of the year but 1.0% above year-ago levels. Growth in the hog sector has been slowing following recent years of expansion that often averaged 5.0% annually.

Many hog producers have seen their profits diminish or have experienced losses as a result of soft prices for hogs and escalating feed costs. Following price declines in the United States, Canadian hog prices have fallen by 30.0% since they peaked in the summer of 2001.

Inventories have dropped in all three Prairie Provinces, where feed supplies have been limited due to two years of drought. Meanwhile, in Ontario, where feed supplies are more plentiful, inventories continued to climb and stood 3.9% above April 1, 2002. Hog numbers remained stable in Quebec, Canada's major hog producing province. Expansion in Quebec has been limited by a two-year moratorium on hog production.

In Canada, a record number 5.8 million hogs have been slaughtered in each of the past two quarters, coinciding with additional capacity and a drop in the number of slaughter pigs exported. Shipments of slaughter pigs to the United States declined to 1.8 million head in 2002, the smallest volume since 1996.

Quarterly Pigs on Farms: Canada

Class	April 1, 2002	January 1, 2003	April 1, 2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
Breeding Stock	1,523.8	1,551.1	1,553.8
Sows and Bred Gilts	1,479.7	1,509.0	1,512.3
Boars, 6 Months Plus	44.1	42.1	41.5
All Other Pigs	12,896.5	13,115.8	13,012.3
Under 20 kgs	4,256.3	4,407.8	4,386.2
20 - 60 kgs	4,450.2	4,406.7	4,398.9
Over 60 kgs	4,190.0	4,301.3	4,227.2
Total	14,420.3	14,666.9	14,566.1

Source: Livestock and Animal Products Section, Statistics Canada.

The report, *Hog Statistics*, (23-010-XIE, free) will be available in early May 2003 on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca).